AN ALPHA-BET OF CELEBRITIES.

BY

OLIVER HERFORD.

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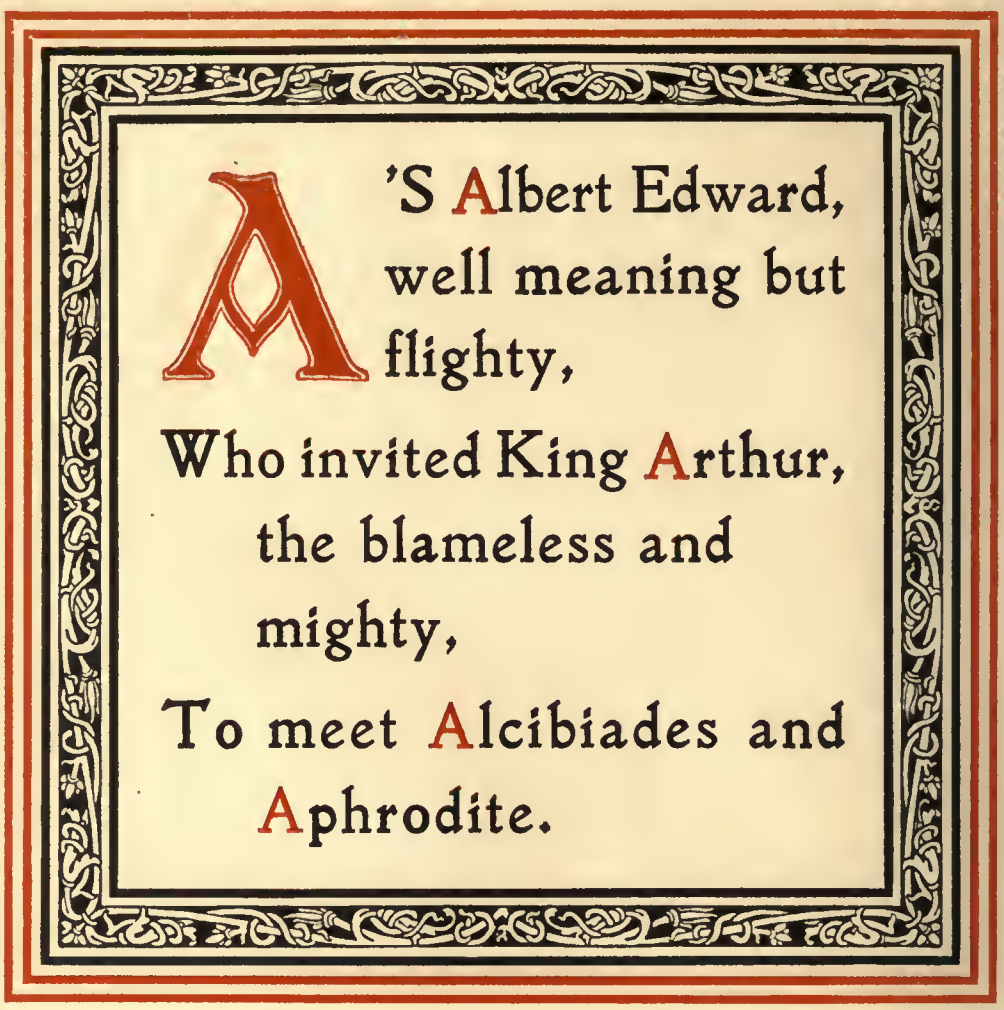
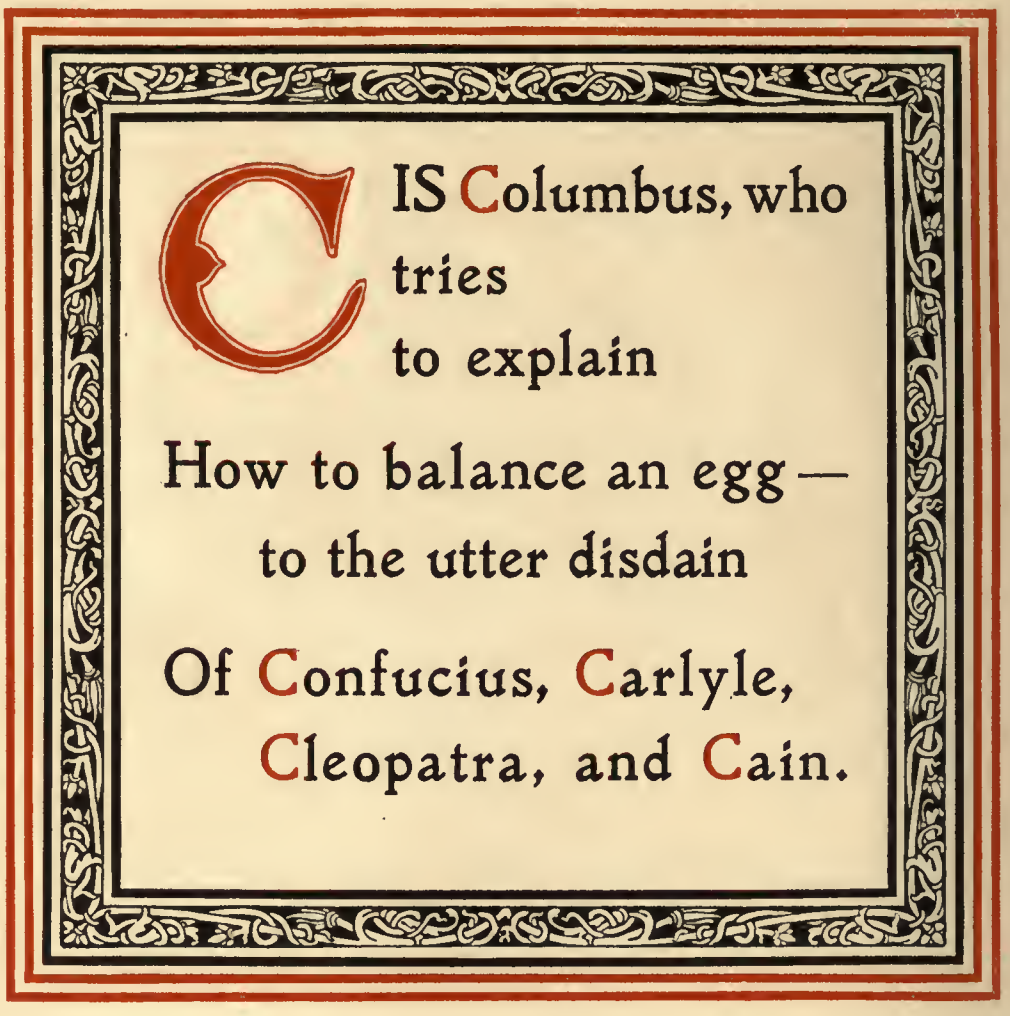
An Alphabet of Celebrities


A'S Albert Edward,
well meaning but
flighty,
Who invited King Arthur,
the blameless and
mighty,
To meet Alcibiades and
Aphrodite.

B IS for Bernhardt,
who fails to
awaken

Much feeling in Bismarck,
Barabbas, and
Bacon.

B


CIS Columbus, who
tries
to explain
How to balance an egg —
to the utter disdain
Of Confucius, Carlyle,
Cleopatra, and Cain.

D'S for Diogenes,
Darwin,
and Dante,

Who delight in the dance
Of a Darling
Bacchante.

E IS for Edison,
making
believe
He's invented a clever
contrivance for Eve,
Who complained that she
never could laugh
in her sleeve.

F IS for Franklin,
who fearfully
shocks

The feelings of Fenelon,
Faber, and Fox.

GIL BLAS
OF
MARTYRS
F

IS Godiva, whose
great bareback
feat

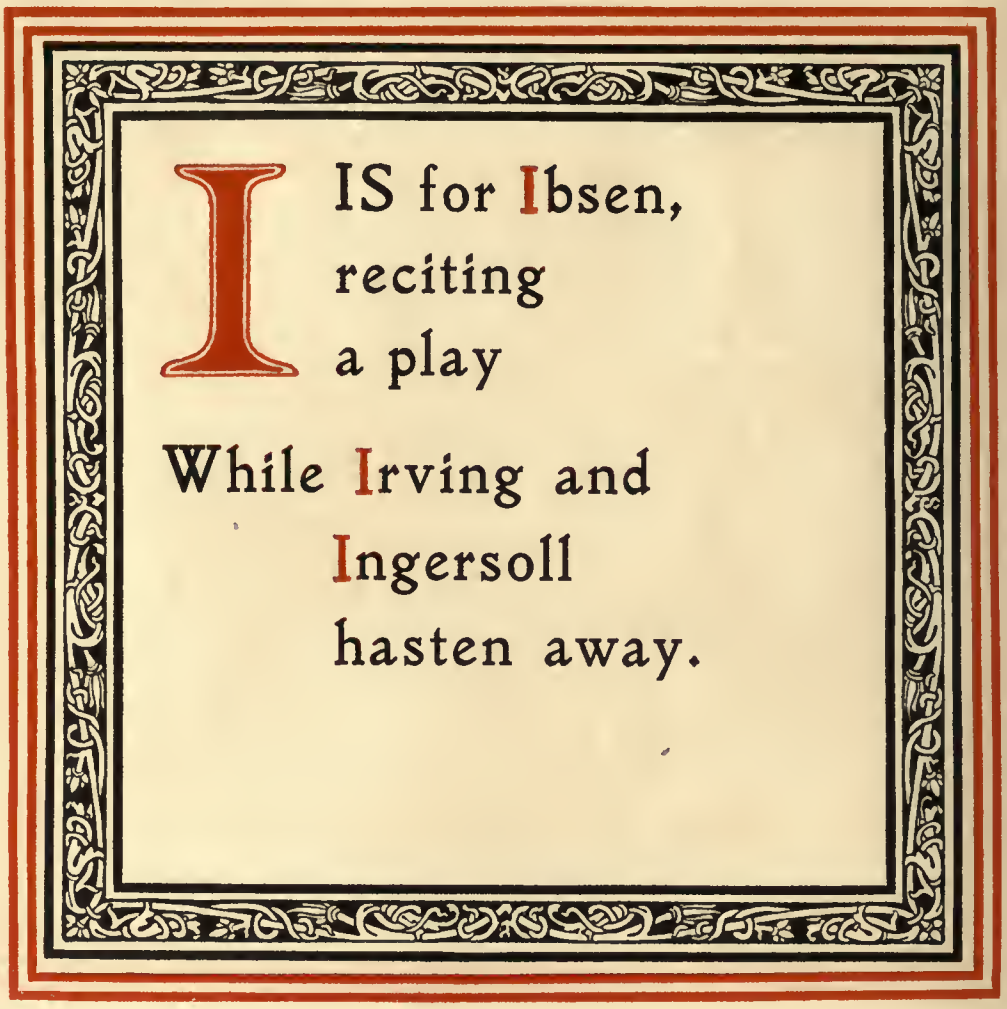
She kindly but firmly de-
clines to repeat,

Though Gounod and
Goldsmith implore
and entreat.

G

HIS for Handel,
who pours
out his soul
Through the bagpipes to
Howells and Homer,
who roll
On the floor in an ecstasy
past all control.

H


I IS for Ibsen,
reciting
a play
While Irving and
Ingersoll
hasten away.

J IS for Johnson,
who only says
"Pish!"

To Jonah, who tells him
his tale
of a fish.

J

K IS the Kaiser,
who kindly
repeats

Some original verses to
Kipling and
Keats.

K

LIS Lafontaine,
who finds he's
unable

To interest Luther and
Liszt in his fable,

While Loie continues
to dance on the table.

L

MIS Macduff,
who's prevailed
upon Milton

And Montaigne and
Manon to each try
a kilt on.

M

N IS Napoleon,
shrouded
in gloom,
With Nero, Narcissus,
and Nordau, to whom
He's explaining the
manual of arms with
a broom.

N

IS for Oliver,
casting
aspersion

On Omar, that awfully
dissolute Persian,

Though secretly longing
to join the diversion.

P IS for Peter, who hollers
"No! No!"

Through the keyhole to
Paine, Paderewski,
and Poe.

P

IS the Queen,
so noble
and free—

For further particulars look under V.

Q

R'S Rubenstein,
playing that
old thing in F

To Rollo and Rembrandt,
who wish
they were deaf.

MELODY
IN F
R

S IS for Swinburne,
who, seeking the
true, the good, and
the beautiful, visits the Zoo,
Where he chances on Sap-
pho and Mr. Sardou,
And Socrates, all with the
same end in view.

S

T IS for Talleyrand
toasting
Miss Truth,
By the side of her well,
in a glass of vermouth,
And presenting Mark
Twain as the friend
of his youth.

T

U IS for Undine,
pursuing
Ulysses

And Umberto, who flee
her damp, death-
dealing kisses.

U

VIS Victoria,
noble
and true —

For further particulars look under Q.

V

W'S Wagner, who sang and played lots for Washington, Wesley, and good Doctor Watts. His prurient plots pained Wesley and Watts, But Washington said he "enjoyed them in spots."

W

IS Xantippe,
who's having
her say,

And frightening the
army of Xerxes
away.

X

Y IS for Young,
the great
Mormon saint,
Who thinks little Yum
Yum and Yvette so
quaint,
He has to be instantly
held in restraint.

Y

Z IS for Zola,
presenting
La Terre

To Zenobia the brave
and Zuleika the fair,

Whose blushes they
artfully conceal with
their hair.

Z

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